

# Wingston González

## *No Budu Please*

Translated from the Spanish by Urayoán Noel

*No Budu Please* emerges in the voice of “an artificial boy in some sort of plastic prairie.” A diversion for all those forgotten and on the outskirts, impenetrable. Wingston González has carved out a distinctive way of creating beats with words while immersed in a Garifuna history marked by the 1797 expulsion from St. Vincent and subsequent exile to the coast of Central America. One of the most prolific Garifuna writers today, González has opened a window into contemporary Black indigeneity in Mesoamerica, while waging a sidelong attack on colonialist language and syntax, rewriting Spanish as he goes. Urayoán Noel’s translation moves the ludic experimentation with Spanish into an English that also tears at the colonial heart of Occidental imaginings.



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The beauty of the here and the between in this small collection is a tantalizing toying with the eye and ear. What does it mean to slurp an island? To be a child of 80's TV? To be Garifuna? To be neighbor to *wichdoctors*? Here, González's overall playfulness with history, myth and ode. Call it gumbo surprise. Tres leche wit a soda pon da syde. *ya solo sabe ber las luses.*

- LATASHA N. NEVADA DIGGS



**Wingston González** (Livingston, Guatemala, 1986) has worked in the fields of poetry, dance, visual arts, music, and artistic action. His published works include *traslaciones* (Cultura; winner of the 2015 Luis Cardoza y Aragón Mesoamerican poetry prize), and *Nuevo Manual de Procedimientos para una Educación Sentimental 1* (YAXS; with illustrations by Bernabé Arévalo).



**Urayoán Noel** is the author, most recently, of the poetry collection *Buzzing Hemisphere/Rumor Hemisférico* (University of Arizona Press) and the critical study *In Visible Movement: Nuyorican Poetry from the Sixties to Slam* (University of Iowa Press). Originally from Puerto Rico, Noel lives in the South Bronx and teaches at NYU and Stetson University's MFA of the Americas.

Chapbook

Poetry | \$10

5.25" x 8.25" | 32 pp.

ISBN 978-1-946433-19-0

Señal #9

Distributed by:  
Small Press Distribution

**Release Date: December 1, 2018**

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